CANADA GAMES CALLS FOR MEDAL DESIGNS, PG 5



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Common show announcement coming today

MUSIC Haligonians will know by noon today which big-name act will headline a second summertime concert on the Halifax Common.

Harold MacKay of Power Promotional Concepts will make the announcement at a press conference today at 11:30 a.m. at the World Trade and Convention Centre.

Details about the concert have been scarce and rumours plentiful in the past week. Names like the Black Eyed Peas and Bob Dylan have been floated about as headliners, but nothing official has been confirmed.

"It's going to be a big one," MacKay told Metro earlier this week, stating the headliner "will be up there" with past performers like Paul McCartney, Kiss and The Rolling Stones.

An outdoor show already announced for the Common sees Alan Jackson headline a twoday country festival in August.

METRO HALIFAX



Halifax Rainmen forward Marc Mazur, left, looks to make a pass as Jean-Philippe Morin of the Quebec Kebs defends him in Premier Basketball League action last night at the Metro Centre. The Rainmen won 109-86 to wrap up the regular season. Story, page 11

HST hike raises HRM deficit by \$2M



Mayor Peter Kelly. The municipality was al-

ready facing a \$30.4-million budget gap as it headed toward its own budget season. The two-percentagepoint HST increase announced by the province in Tuesday's budget moves that number up to \$32.4 million, according to the

mayor.
"(It's) a \$2-million in-

creased cost to the municipality, which will be added to our already \$30-million gap we are trying to re-

ready-challenging budget balance."

the tax increase on Monday, telling Metro it would "put increased cost pressures on the municipality that (HRM)

Municipal staff are examining a number of ways to

balance HRM's books, including \$14 million in department cutbacks, a \$10million transit fee increase, and a \$6-million tax hike of their own. Kelly has said a tax increase is a "last resort," however.

Kelly also said the tax hike adds \$1 million to the price tag of Halifax's new central library. Council voted to approve a \$55-million funding strategy for the facility on March 30.

ALEX BOUTLLIER/FOR METRO HALIFAX

Steele defends budget

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

After a barrage of criticism from business groups, Finance Minister Graham Steele hit back hard yesterday in defence of his budget.

Perhaps the most vocal critic was the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, which said it was "outraged" by a two point hike in the HST and that it

would be "disastrous for be- "If we did what they leaguered taxpayers and entrepreneurs." called on us to do trepreneurs." we'd be closing hos-

Steele was-n't having any of that yester- clear that's not what

Nova Scotians want." day. **Nova Scotians w**"You look at Finance Minister the kind of Graham Steele that Graham Steele

things were said by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business where nothing seems to be good enough for them," he said.

"They seem to want us to slash public services. You know, if we did what they called on us to do we'd be closing hospitals, we'd be laying off nurses and teachers, and it's very clear that's not what Nova Scotians want.'

Steele said Nova Scotia has a good business climate and denied his budget hurts

The CFIB isn't the only one to disagree. The Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association called it a "tax and spend budget" that would cost local producers, as tourists opt to go to New Brunswick. The Halifax Chamber of Commerce called it a missed opportunity to position the province.

However, Steele said he was baffled by a Chamber comment that

didn't he make enough bold moves because he was trying to be fair everyone." to

had to read that two three or times," Steele

said. "That was meant as a criticism but frankly, I think we did try very hard to be fair to everybody and we succeeded."

Since the budget, Steele has frequently said the HST increase was necessary to tackle the province's looming deficit.

This is the kind of budget where we finally face the real issues that confront the problem, which means it's not going to be good news for everybody," he said.

BUDGET The looming HST hike will add \$2 million to HRM's deficit, according to

> solve," Kelly told Metro. "This will add to our al-Kelly came out against

has not yet allocated for."

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Local



Big drop in deer killed by hunters

Wildlife officials in Nova Scotia report a substantial drop in the number of deer killed by hunters last year when compared to 2008. Hunters took a total of 10,280 deer in the fall of 2009 — down from 12,568 in the previous season. However, the Department of Natural Resources says last year's kill was up from 10,075 deer in 2007. An estimated total of 1,101 bears were also taken by hunters in the province last fall, along with 279 moose. THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.B. leaders vow not to hike HST, but Steele has doubts

FINANCES New Brunswick's two main political parties said yesterday they have no intention to follow Nova Scotia's lead with an increase in the harmonized sales tax despite massive deficits and a mounting

But Nova Scotia's finance minister said he doubts his neighbour will have much choice.

With just over five months until the next provincial election, New Brunswick's Liberals and Conservatives both say maintaining low taxes is the best way to stimulate the economy.

"The government of Nova Scotia has made a decision on how they will deal with their fiscal situation and best stimulate their economy. New Brunswick has adopted a different approach," said Greg Byrne, New Brunswick's finance minister.

On Tuesday, Nova Scotia Finance Minister Graham Steele announced his province's HST would be hiked to 15 per cent as of

Steele said he expected New Brunswick would have to do the same thing or take other serious measures in order to combat massive deficits.

He said New Brunswick has a significant structural deficit and is adding a billion dollars a year to its

"It's not something that can continue for a long time. I believe that 12 months from now the situation in New Brunswick will be different," Steele said yesterday.

"Whoever is the government after the fall election, they are going to have to tackle the issues head-on just the way we

The New Brunswick government is expected to run a deficit of \$749 million this year, and the net debt is expected to grow to \$9.5 billion by 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Donahoe halts MLA expense review

Says recent reforms make report redundant \$17K in excessive spending

PAUL MCLEOD

The man charged with reviewing the MLA expense system unexpectedly quit yesterday, killing the review.

Former speaker Art Donahoe said he saw no point in going any further after the NDP introduced a bill to reform the system. He said that bill makes his review superfluous.

'Circumstances have changed dramatically since I undertook the review in December and have made it impossible for me to finish it." Donahoe wrote in a letter to Speaker Charlie Park-

Donahoe was supposed to report back this July to lay the groundwork for a new expense system. But the highly publicized expense scandal forced the govern**"Circumstances** have changed dramatically since I undertook the review in December and have made it impossible for me to finish it."

Former speaker Art Donahoe

ment to make changes before the summer.

At the first-ever public meeting of the internal economy board last month, Donahoe presented his pre-liminary findings. Under intense public scrutiny, MLAs from all parties then rushed to pass a serious of unanimous reforms to open up the system.

Afterwards, Donahoe went up to board members and asked if he should even

bother continuing with his review since they'd already made up their minds on how to change the system.

He was asked to continue, but in his letter said he now sees no point. Many of the recommendations in his interim report have been adopted, though he does oppose the decision to have new expense rule changes approved by the legislature.

Donahoe said he will not charge the province for the work he has done, though he did ask that his research assistant still be paid.



not paid back: Documents

EXPENSES Documents released yesterday by Nova Scotia's speaker's office indicate more than \$17,000 in excessive expenditures by legislature members have not been paid back.

Speaker Charlie Parker says he has received letters from four of the five current and former members who were asked to either pay up or submit

an explanation by April 3.

They include for- Rodney mer premier Rodney MacDonald MacDonald, forme energy minister Bill Dooks. and current house members Howard Epstein and Keith Colwell.

Parker confirms former fisheries minister Chisholm did not contact him about why he spent \$750 on a GPS unit.

He says while MacDonald has submitted a cheque for an overpayment, he has not paid \$3,250 for a projector screen and accessories that are currently at the local constituency office and which MacDonald contends

is the property of the province.

Parker says all of the items highlighted as inappropriate expenses by auditor general Jacques Lapointe in his February report have been reimbursed to the province.

The release of the documents came on the same day as the man tasked with looking into the perks and allowances of Nova Scotia politicians resigned, saying his work is no longer needed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Surtax wipeout 'bitter deal' for middle class: Grits

PAUL MCLEOD

BUDGET Liberals say a clause in the NDP budget removing a surtax for high-income earners is placing the tax burden squarely on the middle class.

Under the system, a new fifth bracket of people earning over \$150,000 will see their income-tax levels go up by 1.75 per cent. But wiping out the surtax means earners between \$83,000 and \$150,000 see a decrease of that amount.

"It's a pretty bitter deal for Nova Scotia families," said Liberal finance critic Leo Glavine.

"The burden of tax now is well planted on the \$30,000 to \$82,000 group, which by far the vast majority of Nova Scotians fit into.

Glavine noted MLAs fall into that second-highest tax bracket, and said the surplus should have been kept.

Finance Minister Graham Steele said the Liberals were creating an imaginary issue. He said the vast majority of surtax payments came from those in the top bracket, who are now paying more. According to the budget, the new system will bring in an extra \$32 million.



Liberals argue a clause in the budget removing a surtax for high-income earners places a greater burden on the middle class, but Finance Minister Graham Steele, seen here moments before delivering his budget address Tuesday at the provincial legislature, defended the new NDP tax system.

Bad habit continuing: Atlantica leader

Atlantica Party Leader Jonathan Dean said vesterday in a release he is disappointed in the NDP budget.

The head of the party that has no MLAs felt it was a continuation of big spending and big government, a habit he

"The people in the upper income group are already

feels needs to be broken if the province is to prosper.

"We need a change in the way we view government as a whole. Government needs to become more limited," he OLIVIA WOOD/

FOR METRO HALIFAX

paying substantially more than people in the middle

"It's the people at the very high end who were paying most of the surtax anyway. So when we were looking at reconfiguring the system, we thought rather than having a surtax and a fifth bracket, it was more properly progressive to have five different brack-

ets and not hit any of them

with a surtax on top of

that.

income group," said Steele.

Ferry supporters confront Dexter

PROTEST Premier Darrell Dexter was met by a couple dozen protesters upset with a lack of funding for ferry service when he arrived yesterday in southwestern Nova Scotia.

Many of the protesters were laid-off Bay Ferries workers, who lost their jobs after the province announced it would not fund the Cat ferry to New England.

Dexter was in Yarmouth to meet with town council. As he arrived at town hall, many of those gathered to greet the premier carried signs that read Save Our Jobs.

Some of the protesters asked Dexter if funding for a ferry service next year would be brought up during the meeting with coun-

The premier said the topic would be discussed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Blogs A score laden with classic rock gems has Backbeat worked up for the musical Rock of Ages



The RCMP say they're investigating a number of grass and brush fires in Pictou County that appear to have been set on purpose. They say any such cases of arson that occur close to homes, schools or other populated areas are classified as endangering life. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Centre deadline delayed

Tender submissions — and OK for provincial funding — held until July

ALEX BOUTILIER for Metro Halifax



The province's role in Halifax's proposed new trade and convention centre will hang in the balance a little longer. The tender submission

deadline for the proposed 1.4-million-square-foot convention centre on Argyle Street has been extended for another three months, to July 19 from April 19.

The tender will outline the design and management strategies for the project. Ultimately, it will determine whether or not the province will provide

funding for the project.
According to Cathy
MacIsaac, spokeswoman
for Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, it isn't uncommon for submission deadlines for large projects like this to be extended.

"We obviously want to have the most complete and accurate submission possible, so when the request came in (from the developer) it was granted," she said of the delay.



HRM Mayor Peter Kelly stands next to a rendering of the proposed new convention centre for downtown Halifax in this file photo.

MacIsaac also reiterated Nova Scotia Finance Minister Graham Steele's comments to Metro on not reading into the absence of funding for the facility in Tuesday's budget.

"The way the funding under the proposal, if it went forward, the idea would be that it would actually be a series of payments," she said.

"The first payment wouldn't actually be due

until the project was substantially complete."
This is the second time

the tender deadline has been extended. Originally, submissions were sup-posed to be received by the province in February.

Last month, HRM Mayor Peter Kelly increased pressure on the province to fund one-third of the proj-

"This is one that's a nobrainer," Kelly told Metro.

"We need to not lose focus and make sure the place gets built.

The entire building is expected to cost between \$300 and \$350 million, but that includes a private ho-tel, offices and retail space. Kelly said it will cost the three levels of government between \$30 and \$50 million, if split evenly.

Kelly said the amount would be offset by the centre's economic spinoff.

Nine charged over brawl in Dartmouth courthouse

ALEX BOUTILIER

FIGHT Nine people charged in relation to a brawl inside the Dartmouth courthouse last month will be returning to the scene of the crime.

Halifax Regional Police have charged nine people - seven men and two women - in relation to the incident on March 19. The accused, ranging in age from 18 to 52, will face the charges either on May 5 or May 11.

Eight of the nine are charged with assault and causing a disturbance. One is charged with causing and disturbance and breach of conditions.

No names have been released, but police say those involved are from North Preston and Westphal.

police Theresa According to spokeswoman Rath, eight of the nine people charged turned themselves into police last week.

"We actually were liaising with them as a result of our investigation and they agreed to turn themselves in," she said.

"It was a verbal exchange after a sentencing hearing. And that led to an assault."

Theresa Rath. police spokeswoman

"We made arrangements to pick (the ninth) up else-

Rath added all nine have

been released pending trial.
The fight broke out
shortly after Tyrell Ramone
Beals, of North Preston, was given a four-month sentence for weapons offences, including pointing a gun at someone.

"It was a verbal exchange that began after a sentence hearing," Rath said. "And that led to an assault and the subsequent disturbance.'

While more people were involved in the disturbance, the video evidence and an investigation determined nine were in violation of the law, Rath alleged. A few people re-ceived minor injuries in the brawl, but no one was taken to hospital.

Simon and Garfunkel bringing their hits to Halifax

PERFORMANCE Tickets go on sale today at 9 a.m. for the two Simon and Garfunkel shows at the Halifax Metro Centre on May 17 and 18.

The legendary folk duo will be in Halifax as part of their 2010 North American tour.

The majority of the tour will be spent in Canada, beginning in Vancouver on April 29.

The night will feature

songs from the duo's six studio albums, as well as highlights from both Art Garfunkel and Paul Simon's solo careers.

Tickets for the two concerts go on sale on Thursday, April 8 at 9 a.m. at a cost of \$149.50 and \$99.50. They will be available at all Ticket Atlantic outlets, online at www.ticketatlantic.com, or by phone at 451-1221. METRO HALIFAX

School to honour fallen Mountie

PHILIP CROUCHER

**Courcher@metronews.ca



The CBC is report- Gallagher ing a group from Sgt. Mark Gallagher's hometown of Woodstock, N.B., is getting together to build a vocational school in the earthquake-ravaged coun-

try in his memory.
The new school, according to the CBC, will teach skills that help residents

find jobs. These skills will include cooking, sewing and trade work.

Gallagher, known in both police and media circles, left Halifax in July for a peace operation in Haiti where he trained Haitian police as part of a UN mission.

Prior to that, the 50-year-old spent two years as the public relations officer for the RCMP in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Gallagher's body was found in the Haiti capital of Port-au-Prince on Jan. 14. Gallagher left behind a wife and two children.



News in brief

CIGARETTES A 60-year-old Halifax man will appear in court next month facing charges of possession and sale of illegal cigarettes, Halifax Regional Police said yesterday they joined the Nova Scotia Fuel and Tobacco Compliance Unit in conducting a week-long investigation into the sale of illegal smokes in Halifax. As a result of this investigation, police say they received a search warrant for a home on Chisholm Avenue where about 24,000 illegal cigarettes were seized on March 29. The man was arrested and will appear in Halifax provincial court in May.

DRUGS The RCMP have charged two men from Bible Hill with several drug-related offences. After an ongoing investigation, police say they conducted a controlled search of a residence on Pictou Road Tuesday night. Police say 150 tablets of ecstasy and 80 grams of marijuana were seized. Matthew Patrick Allen and Daniel Robert McKinnon were both arrested and charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking in ecstasy, possession for the purpose of trafficking marijuana and two counts of breach of proba-METRO HALIFAX

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The commercial seal hunt is scheduled to resume today in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. However, few sealers are expected to head out. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Game on for medal design competition

SHELBY MCDONALD for Metro Halifax



Attention Nova Scotians. The Halifax 2011 Canada **Games Host Society is** looking for your help.

The host society has launched a challenge for residents of the province, aged 13 and up. The challenge is to design the medal that will be given to Canadian athletes who win gold, silver and bronze at the Games on Feb. 11 to

"It's a great way to engage people in the Games," Melissa MacKinnon, director of communications and community relations, said about the challenge announced yesterday. "It's an opportunity for either

someone with experience or a budding designer who just wants to have fun and submit.

MacKinnon said the winning design must incorporate the 2011 Games logo and should have a traditional sense of the unique nature and culture of Nova Scotia with elements of modernist flare they say the two-week sporting event will provide.

"The Games are traditionally held in smaller jurisdictions like White-

Deadline

 Submissions for the medal designs have to be in by Monday, April 30 at 4 p.m. Information on how to submit the designs is on the website canadagames2011.ca.

horse, or Corner Brook," Mackinnon said. "These Games will be a bit modern compared to past games, and so we really want to mix the culture of Nova Scotia with the modernist of what these Games will be."

About 2,700 athletes in 20 sports are set to compete in next year's Games, which will be the largest sporting event ever hosted by the province.

Jesus play aims to shock

OLIVIA WOOD for Metro Halifax



THEATRE One man, alone on stage, exploring the topic of Christianity.

That's what audiences have in store with Neptune Studio Theatre's new production Bigger Than Jesus, which premieres tomorrow night and through April 24. runs

The play is co-created and co-directed by Rick Miller and Daniel Brooks, though Miller, a Torontonian, is the only face on

stage. Miller said he is very excited to perform the show to a "fresh audience" with "fresh reactions," as this will be the first time the well-known play has made its way to Halifax.

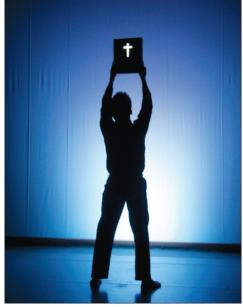
"We might shock some people and that's a good thing," he said.

When it comes to performing the 75-minute show by himself, Miller said he enjoys the "very particular relationship" he develops with the audience. "I like the control. I like

the ability to take the show in my own hands," Miller said at yesterday's show launch.

Show info

• Bigger Than Jesus premieres tomorrow night and runs through April 24 at Neptune Studio Theatre. For tickets and showtimes, visit neptunetheatre.com.



Rick Miller rehearses for Neptune Studio Theatre's new production Bigger Than Jesus, a one-man show that premiers tomorrow night and runs through April 24.

In reality, it is only an illusion he is doing the show by himself. There is a team of people contributing to the technical and design side, along with other theatrical aspects.

"It's challenging in the sense that I'm on a roller-coaster ride alone, and though I'm not quite by myself, the audience depends on me," he said, during a break from rehearsal.

The show incorporates a plethora of multi-media aspects and Miller said it was the best way to bring 2,000 years of Christian imagery

to the play. He said with cameras popping up constantly the audience gets the "sense of the ubiquitous eye of God, following them everywhere."

"Part of the experience of watching the play is you can lose yourself in the images," he added.

Miller is very animated about the show and feels it emerges a multi-perspec-tive portrait of Jesus to a modern audience.

"It's meant to ask a lot of questions but not provide a lot of answers," he explained.

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6

The discovery of almost 600 rabbits in an upscale Edmonton home has led to charges against three people. The Edmonton Humane Society says the trio are accused of causing distress and failing to provide adequate care for ill or wounded animals. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Cops to help fight child abuse in Haiti

Three Canadian police officers are heading to quake-ravaged Haiti to help protect children from sexual exploitation on the Internet. The federal government says the month-long deployment is a project of the Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children. The officers will be based in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince and will help the country's national police force develop their capacity to protect children from online sexual exploitation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recovery leading G7 peers, says OECD

Canada's economy is blow ing its G7 peers out of the water in terms of the speed and strength of its economic recovery, says a new outlook from a leading international organization.

The Paris-based Organization for Economic Development and Co-operation says Canada's economy likely grew 6.2 per cent in the first quarter of this year, well ahead of the 1.9 per cent overall growth estimated for the other G7

Who's who

• The United States, United Kingdom, Japan, Italy, Germany and France are the other G7 countries. Brazil. China, India and Russia aren't currently full members of the OECD, despite the growing international importance of their economies.

countries

And the 30-member organization, representing the world's advanced na-tions including the G7, says Canada's economy will continue to expand in the second quarter — the March-June period — at 4.5 per cent, about twice the G7 average.

"Canada is benefiting from its past good policies, in spite of the fact that Canada was severely hit through trade ... from south of the border," said OECD chief economist Pier Carlo Padoan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Raging torrent



A demonstrator shouts a slogan while holding a blue banner as she prepares to march during a protest in Toronto yesterday to highlight demands for the restitution for mercury poisoning, which is claimed to be affecting the health of the community in Grassy Narrows, Ont. Demonstrators used blue fabric to create a wild river which they marched to the Ontario legislature.

News in brief

TELEVISION Industry Minister Tony Clement says he doesn't want delays in the transition from analog to digital TV, despite loud warnings that Canada is far from ready for it. An estimated 900,000 Canadian households that rely on antennas don't have televisions equipped to receive those new digital signals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New study reveals positive picture of Canada's urban-based aboriginals Canada's aboriginal population. Among the study's key aboriginal justice system. HEATHER BUCHAN for Metro Canada

FIRST NATIONS A study re-leased this week paints a very different picture of life for Aboriginal Peoples living in Canada's urban centres than the usual one of despair.

The Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study captures the values and aspirations of findings: the majority of Aboriginal Peoples want to make their city

a better place;

education

their top priority as is their hope for the next generation to succeed; but they have little confidence in the criminal justice system and the ma-

Charges laid in rabbit-hoarding case

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Way to go, Clara Speed skater's the toast of Canada



Olympic cyclist and speed skater Clara Hughes, 37, receives the Order of Canada from Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean during a ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa yesterday. Hughes has won multiple Olympic medals in both sports. She is also involved in international humanitarian work.

News in brief

TERROR Prime Minister

Stephen Harper personally ap proved Moammar Gadhafi's planned Canadian lavover last vear, even as his government rebuked the Libyan leader for celebrating a terrorist, a document shows. THE CANADIAN PRESS

What crisis? Not for MPs' pensions

sion fund swell by 10 per cent in the recession.

The parliamentary plan was immune to the market meltdown that decimated millions of retirement nest rate is set by regulation.

A report on the pension fund for MPs and senators shows the fund earned a enviable quarterly interest rate of 2.5 per cent during

the 2008-09 fiscal year.

Meanwhile, private pension plans lost 21 per cent of their value, says the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Develop-THE CANADIAN PRESS

Smoking out the doomed

Test spots smokers who'll die

Smoking kills. But just who will die?

A new screening technique can predict about three-quarters of the smokers who will develop lethal lung cancers, say authors of a groundbreaking study.

What's more, the bio-chemical signatures captured by the

screen in most "An early cancer-prone smokers could **detection tool** be blocked by a is ... ready for new drug that could prevent prime time." disease Dr. Avrum Spira

from progressaccording ing, to the study released yesterday.

"The idea that you can detect ... those smokers that are at highest risk to develop lung cancer, either at an early stage or before it actually occurs, is going to have an enormous, immediate impact," said Dr. Avrum Spira, the senior study author.

The screen uses cells swabbed from a smoker's windpipe.

For most people who have or are likely to develop lung cancer, the cells rea telltale genetic mechanism that does not exist in smokers who will not get cancer.

The genetic pathway, set in motion by something in the toxic tobacco miasma. can be detected at cancer's earliest stage, or even before it exists.

The technique should be in clinics within the next 12 months, says Spira of Boston Medical Centre. "An early detection tool is really ready for prime time," he said.

Canadian Institutes of Health Research scientist David Dankort said the potential of the new screen could be "huge."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Judge fired after issuing arrest warrant for overdue library DVD A Colorado judge has been fired after issuing an arrest warrant for a teen over an overdue library DVD. James Kimmel issued the warrant after 19-year-old Aaron Henson failed to show up in court over the House of Flying Daggers DVD. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin attended a memorial ceremony yesterday for 22,000 Polish officers, prisoners and intellectuals who were killed by Josef Stalin's secret police in 1940. Putin's speech however stopped short of offering any apology to Poland or calling the massacres a war crime.

Putin apologizes, sort of

Hope down to a 'sliver'

Rescuers acknowledge odds are against missing West Virginia miners

Anxious family members clung to what the West Virginia governor called a "sliver of hope" yesterday as rescuers drilled into the coal mine where 25 people died in an explosion, hoping to vent enough poisonous gas to safely get inside and look for possible survivors.

Crews had drilled one hole and were working on two more to release enough methane gas so searchers could enter the Upper Big Branch mine to look for four people still missing in the worst U.S. mining accident in more than two decades.

Federal officials started testing the air yesterday afternoon to see if it was safe, said Mike Snelling, a vice-president for Massey Energy Co., which owns the mine.

The disaster has brought new scrutiny for Massey, which has been repeatedly cited for problems with the system that ventilates combustible methane gas. The federal Mine Safety and Health Administration yesterday appointed a special team of investigators to look into the blast, which offi-cials said may have been

Cited same day

• The Massey Energy coal mine was cited for violating two U.S. federal safety rules on the day of the blast. Mine Safety and Health Administration records show the citations were issued Monday.

caused by a build up of methane.

Like many other mine operators, Massey frequently sidesteps hefty fines by aggressively appealing safety violations at the mine, according to an Associated Press analysis of mine safety records.

Rescuers hoped the four miners might somehow have reached a chamber where they could survive for four days, though they acknowledged the odds were against them. They banged on a drill pipe for about 15 minutes after the first hole was complete but got no response.

Family members could do little but wait.

"They know the odds are not in our favour because of the horrificness [sic] of the horrendous blast that we had," Gov. Joe Manchin said at a briefing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A protester attacks a police officer during clashes in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, yesterday.

Kyrgystan opposition seizes power

CENTRAL ASIA Opposition leaders declared they had seized power in Kyrgyzstan, taking control of security headquarters, a state TV channel and other government buildings after clashes between police and protesters killed dozens in this Central Asian nation that houses a key U.S. air base.

President Kurmanbek Bakiyev, who came to power in a similar popular uprising five years ago, was said to have fled to the southern city of Osh, and it was difficult to gauge how much of the impoverished, moun-tainous country the opposition controlled yesterday.

"The security service and the Interior Ministry ... all of them are already under the management of new people," Rosa Otunbayeva, a former foreign minister who the opposition leaders said

would head the interim government, told the Russian-language

Mir TV channel.

The opposition has called for closure of the U.S. air base in Manas outside the capital of Bishkek that is a key transit point for supplies essential to the war in nearby Afghanistan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rains begin to ease in Rio

BRAZIL Flooding and mudslides from the heaviest deluge ever recorded in Rio killed at least 100 people and left many more home-less, officials said yesterday as the rains finally began to ease. A minimum 2,000 people were forced from their homes by punishing rain that filled streets with raging torrents and ground Brazil's second-biggest city to a halt the previous day. All told, about 28 centimetres fell in the space of 36 hours. The death toll was expected to rise as workers picked through tons of mud that barrelled through hillside slums, where most of the deaths were registered.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

With namesakes disappearing, Glacier **National Park** may need a new moniker.

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News in brief

NORWAY A Catholic bishop who resigned last year did so after admitting he had molested a child about 20 years earlier, when he was a priest. church officials said yesterday

The announcement came after a Norwegian newspaper pressed for an explanation for why Georg Mueller had stepped down unexpectedly as bishop in the western city of

Trondheim in 2009. At the time, church officials gave only vague reasons for Mueller's departure.

THAILAND Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva declared a state

of emergency in Bangkok vesterday, handing the army broad powers to restore order after anti-government protesters broke into Parliament.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montreal firm expands global reach

Aveos Fleet Performance, based in Montreal, is expanding its global reach by signing agreements to refurbish aircraft engines for Air China and three airlines in Eastern Europe and Asia. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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More 'tire' in **Canadian Tire**

Renewed focus meant to broaden appeal

Canadian Tire Corp. is retooling to concentrate on its core automotive and hardware businesses, but its chief executive says he doesn't want shopping there to feel like a "male experience."

The iconic retailer says it plans to focus on the auto parts business that made Canadian Tire a household brand after a recent expansion into home decor to attract more female shoppers. It plans to grow the automotive division by four to six per cent a year over the next five years.

But chief executive Stephen Wetmore said yesterday that the company's renewed focus on automotive supplies and repair is meant to broaden its customer base, not limit it.

"The thing we do not want to do is just make it a male experience; it has to consumer friendly, whoever brings (a car problem) in, and whatever your knowledge level," he said.

Auto supplies are among the first items customers will see when they walk into a revamped Canadian Tire, where a racetrack floor plan provides more space for high growth categories and directs consumers to products more easily, said Mike Arnett, Canadian Tire's retail pres-THE CANADIAN PRESS

Japan Zooming back to profits?



Japan Airlines Corp. is speeding up planned job cuts in an effort to return to profitability and intends to lay off one-third of its workforce this fiscal year, instead of over three years as previously announced. It is unknown whether this affects the maintenance personnel seen checking a jet engine at Narita International Airport, east of Tokyo, in this January photo.

GM could turn profit in 2010

Co., steadily returning to health after its near-collapse in 2009, said Tuesday it plans to pay off its government loans by June — five years ahead of sched-- and could report a profit as early as this year. GM said it lost \$3.4 bil-

\$6.7B GM's CEO says the top priority for the company is repaying \$6.7 billion in U.S. government loans.

lion US in the fourth quarter of 2009 on revenues of \$32.3 billion. But things are on the upswing. Sales and production have increased and GM has gained U.S. market share since the start of the year. The automaker will try to mainthat momentum while facing a stiff challenge from a revitalized THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

INVESTMENT GE Canada will create 80 jobs and preserve 545 existing positions by investing \$63.5 million over six years to diversify its aircraft parts business in Bromont. Que., with the help of the provincial government. Premier Jean Charest announced the province will provide a grant for up to \$13.3 million. Charest said the grant was necessary to ensure GE's investment would stay in the province.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECOVERY Oil prices eased back yesterday on a report showing crude inventories grew more than expected last week and that supplies of

gasoline were still well above average. Crude prices have jumped since February on signs that the global econo-

my is gaining strength and projected rising demand for gasoline and diesel.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trio of global carmakers band together to increase sales

AUTOS Will a mini Mercedes powered by a Re-nault-Nissan engine still command a luxury-brand premium?

Daimler AG is confident it will, as the German automaker teams up with France's Renault and Japan's Nissan to share parts and platforms and make more cost-efficient and competitive small

It's all part of an automotive three-way alliance they hope will help them ride out a sales

The carmakers aim to strip out billions of euros in costs over the next five years by sharing parts and development costs, mainly in energy efficient compact cars such as the Renault Twingo and the Mercedes Smart car.

Analysts say there is little risk that the cachet of Mercedes's flagship brand will take hit from the deal, as the parts sharing will be limited to the small car di-THE ASSOCIATED PRESS vision.

Will new mobile devices turn couch potatoes into coffee shop potatoes?

Chinese bid might be sign of things to come

RESOURCES A \$150-million bid by China's largest nickel producer for Toronto-based Crowflight Minerals Inc. could open the door to even more Chinese investment in Canadian resources, according

Crowflight's CEO.

"This is (Jinchuan Group's) first major nickel purchase inside of Canada, and who knows what opportunities it might bring, Mark Trevisiol said.

Trevisiol said surging de-

mand in the rapidly growing Chinese economy, combined with limited resources within China, means Chinese companies are becoming increasingly interested in Canada.

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Comment & Views

Comment

Thinking outside the jewelry box



springtime! When a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of love. And, in extreme cases, to thoughts of c-c-c-commitment. (Well, gentlemen. If you like it...) The glut of engagement ring and wedding band options can be overwhelming. Princess or pear cut? Solitaire or sidestone? White gold or platinum? And do you really need to spend two months' salary on a sparkly?

Many couples are opting for more affordable, ethical, ecological and original options. Here are a few alternatives to going the traditional ring route:

Re-purpose old jewelry.

"Instead of a wedding band, I wear a ring that my parents gave me for my 13th birthday," says Allison Out-hit, who wed husband James in 2006. "It's five small braided gold bands held together with a little clip. For me, it symbolizes the five members of my immediate family." Rings with stories attached can be far more meaningful than new jewelry. If you've inherited an heirloom necklace or earrings, have a jeweller reset the gemstones into a band.

Buy ethically. "There's nothing I can't tell you about my jewelry," says

Ryan Taylor, proprietor of looking to get the next the Fair Trade Jewelry Co. (ftjco.com) in Toronto. Tay- to a car, you should be getlor designs rings with ethically mined ore sourced from Colombia via Amichoco's Oro Verde (Green Gold) program and uses Canadian diamonds exclusively. He encourages customers to do their research and ask a lot of questions. Taylor also suggests dealing with makers as opposed to salespeople. "They're pas-sionate and they under-stand everything about their material. If you're

ting that sort of service. You should walk out of a place knowing everything about (the ring) you just bought."

Do whatever makes you happy. "Jay and I were THIS close to getting Batman wedding rings," says writer Karla Pacheco. "Out of the SkyMall catalog, no less — those fine purveyors of Lord Of The Rings-inspired iewelry, executive phone chargers, and enormous stone Buddhas for the

captive airline audience." Pacheco and her fiancé eventually decided the Batman rings were a touch tacky. They scoured small jewelry shops in their neighbourhood the weekend before their wedding and opted for simple \$75 bands. Says Pacheco, "At the end of the day ... what they symbolize is more important than what they look like or what they cost.

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.

Views

Keeping pace with growing diversity



Forward-thinking organizations have shown that effectively managing diversity and embracing inclusion offers a competitive advantage — improving access to skilled workers, growing increasingly diverse and global markets, increasing productivity, and fuelling innovation.

A recent Statistics Canada study adds further fuel to the diversity imperative. By 2031, more than one-quarter of our population could be foreign-born, more than half from Asia. Almost one-third could be visible minorities, nearly double the current rate.

The vast majority (96 per cent) of visible minorities will live in cities, comprising 63 per cent of the population of Toronto, 59 per cent in Vancouver and 31 per cent in Montreal (compared to less than five per cent in smaller towns).

Will we be ready? While progress has undeniably been made, research shows overt and systemic discrimination persists across sectors. The barriers are complex. There is the Catch 22 of no Canadian work experience, no job — no job, no Canadian work experience. Undervaluing foreign credentials, challenges navi-gating informal job markets, and complex cultural differences are all barriers to full employment.

The underfunding and fragmentation of services for immigrants remains a problem and impedes the matching of skilled work-ers to employers.

gion, west of Toronto, revealed that only 40 per cent of immigrants surveyed were satisfied with services they received. This fell to 25 per cent among immigrants with a university education, suggesting the current models and one-size-fits-all approach to language training and job supports are not meeting their needs or expecta-

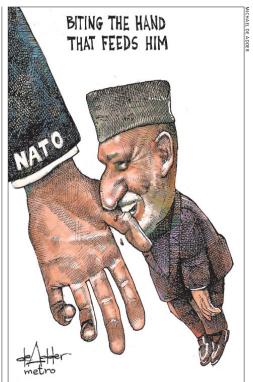
And racism remains the problem that dares not speak its name. A particularly damning study by Oreopoulous showed that resumés from English-named applicants with Canadian credentials were three times more likely to receive interviews than applicants with Chinese, Indian or Pakistani names and foreign credentials.

The Peel study revealed more than 40 per cent of visible minority immiceive discrimination by employers compared to 22.8 per cent of white immigrants.

What to do? There are no easy solutions to complex problems. An integrated approach is needed to address barriers at all levels. Better pre-immigration counselling, credential recognition and bridging programs, one-stop shopping for support, specialized services and training for more highly educated, more access to internships and mentoring are all important.

Most of all, more work needs to be done within organizations across sectors government, education and business — to create more welcoming, fair and inclusive environments.

Wendy Cukier is the associate dean of the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University, and the founder of Ryerson's Diversity Institute.



Tell us your views by email to halifaxletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrohalifax

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ROGERS"

Sea Dogs sweep series, headed to semifinals

The Saint John Sea Dogs have advanced to the QMJHL semifinals. The Sea Dogs completed a four-game sweep of the Gatineau Olympiques last night in Quebec with a 4-2 win. Former Dartmouth Subways star Michael Kirkpatrick had a goal and an assist. METRO HALIFAX



Sports

Cave looking to stay perfect

Halifax's Tyson Cave will face Ireland's Willie Casey in a battle of undefeated super bantamweight boxers tonight at the

Rainmen setting the tone

Halifax ready for playoffs after hammering Quebec 109-86

MATTHEW WUEST matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Even with two of their best players on the bench, the Halifax Rainmen still mopped the floor with the Quebec

In what was a little more than a tuneup for the Pre-Basketball League playoffs, the Rainmen rest-

In the seats

The Halifax Rainmen's

season-low crowd of 1,847

last night gave them a sea-

son average of 3,292. That's

an increase of more than

500 per game from last sea-

son, when they averaged

2,778. The Rainmen aver-

aged crowds of 1,810 in

their inaugural campaign in

injured top scorer Tony Bennett and veteran double-double machine Eric Crookshank and hammered the Kebs 109-86 last night to wrap up regular season before

1.847 at the Metro Centre. "We pretty much tried to set the tone going into the playoffs," said Rainmen small forward Greg Plum-

a crowd of 2007-08.

hit double figures, with 17 points.

"We're ready now. We realize what's at stake and we know we can't just come in and win. This was a good warmup for what's

mer, one of six players to

to come."

Bennett, who sat out of practice this week with an Achilles tendon injury, started the game but sacrificed a chance to win a scoring title by taking a seat after less than three minutes. Crookshank didn't play after the first quarter.

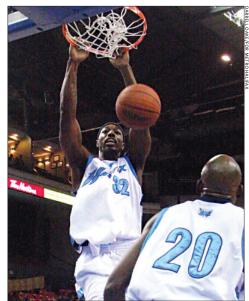
Point guard Gary Ervin, wearing a brace for a shoulder separation, recorded his second triple-

double of the season with 22 points, 12 rebounds and a franchiserecord 15 aswhile sists playing a full 48 minutes in relief of Bennett and another injured guard, Eric Gilchrese.

Larry Turner had 18 points, Desmond Ferguson 17 on five three-pointers, Marc Mazur 14 and John

Strickland 13.
"It was a great showing and it's great to go into the playoffs with a win," Turner said.

The third-place Rainmen finish the season 13-7 and will play either the firstplace Lawton-Fort Sill Cavalry, 17-2, or the second-



Larry Turner of the Halifax Rainmen throws down a huge dunk as teammate Eric Crookshank looks on in Premier Basketball League action at the Metro Centre last night.

place Rochester Razor-Sharks, 14-3, in the best-ofthree first round starting next Thursday at the Metro Centre.

fourth-place Ver-The mont Frost Heaves, 11-7, have the tiebreaker over the Rainmen and can finish third if they win games against Rochester tonight and Ouebec tomorrow.

"We're gonna watch those games and we're gonna be ready for whoever we need to play," Turner said. "We're going to practise hard all week to get all the kinks out to be pre-

Bruins' Bodnarchuk figures to see more time on the ice

MATTHEW WUEST matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

NHL The Boston Bruins' loss could be Andrew Bodnarchuk's gain.

The Bruins have fallen on hard times in the injury department, losing three of their top four defence-men — Dennis Seidenberg (forearm laceration), Andrew Ference (hernia) and Mark Andrew Stuart (cellulitis in Bodnarchuk his finger) - for

the rest of the NHL regular season and likely

longer. The 21-year-old Bodnarchuk, a Hammonds Plains native who has two NHL games under his belt after being recalled on Saturday, will factor into the top-six rotation as the

club works toward securing the final Eastern Conference playoff spot with three games remaining.
"It means our forwards

are going to have to be really good and help out in

our own end so we can spend the least amount of time in there," Bruins head coach Claude Julien told the media yesterday.
"It's a matter of

buckling down and doing our job properly here to make it as easy as possible on our guys.

Bodnarchuk, who captained the Halifax Mooseheads in 2007-08 and is second in franchise history in scoring among blueliners, had five goals and 10 assists in 70 games with the American Hock-League's Providence Bruins before his recall.

Corbeil falls in ranking but it's not bad news, says scout

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

DRAFT Mathieu Corbeil's draft stock took a tumble yesterday, but at least one scout says that might be a blessing in disguise.

The Halifax Mooseheads goaltender saw his midterm ranking of third drop to seventh when Central Scouting released its final list of North American stoppers for June's NHL

Backstopping the QMJHL's worst team, Corbeil showed flashes of brilliance while posting an 8-39 record in 50 starts along with a 3.83 goalsagainst average and a .883 save percentage.

"In a sense, I was happy he dropped a little bit because I think he is a safer



Moose netminder Mathieu Corbeil dropped from third to seventh in Central Scouting's final list of North American goaltenders for the NHL draft.

pick in later rounds," said Chris Bordeleau, the bureau's QMJHL scout. "There won't be

much pressure on him (being drafted later) and that can work wonders. The kid's got size and the ability to do it all.'

Corbeil wasn't the only one who saw his stock fall. His teammate, defence-man Konrad Abeltshauser, slipped from 108th at midterm to 164th.

The 17-year-old logged upwards of 25 minutes a night and posted five goals

and 20 assists in 48 games. "He missed a lot of games with injuries and

his skating was an issue ... In today's game, you have to have that (speed)," Bor-deleau said. "But he's a big guy who moves the puck well out of his own end."

Cole Harbour's Stephen MacAulay, a left-winger with the powerful Saint John Sea Dogs, ranks 85th in Central Scouting's final list, a drop of 13 spots from mid-term. The sixfoot-two 174-pounder had 21 points and a plus-18 in 56 games.

'He's a hard-working kid who never stops," Bor-deleau said. "We feel that with some work, he could end up being a third- or fourth-liner in the NHL and kill penalties."

The draft is June 25 and 26 in Los Angeles.

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12 sports

Tennis great Navratilova diagnosed with breast cancer

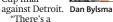
Tennis great Martina Navratilova has been diagnosed with a non-invasive form of breast cancer and her prognosis is considered excellent. The nine-time Wimbledon women's singles champion had a lumpectomy in March and will start six weeks of radiation therapy next month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pens look to defend title

NHL Dan Bylsma has learned one important lesson about the chase for the Stanley Cup.

'You can do everything right and that doesn't mean you're going to win," the Pittsburgh Penguins coach said yesterday. Bylsma has had some time to reflect on Pittsburgh's championship run last spring and acknowledges things could have gone differently. The Penguins had to win a Game 7 on the

road in Washington in the second round before doing the same thing in the Stanley Cup final



certain amount of fortitude and a certain amount of perseverance that it takes to get through four rounds and win," Bylsma said.

The Penguins have three regular-season games remaining before opening their title defence next week. They aren't likely to enter the Stanley Cup tournament as favourites to repeat. Pittsburgh went a combined 0-8-2 against East rivals Washington and New Jersey this season and Bylsma admits the team has struggled to find its top lev-THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harsh words for Tiger

On the day Tiger Woods arrived at the Masters, he changed out of his spikes after playing nine holes, walked across the parking lot and went upstairs to the office of Augusta National chairman Billy

Payne would not discuss details of their Sunday afternoon meeting.

Based on his blunt criti-

cism of Woods during his annual press conference yesterday, they probably weren't talking about how Woods was hitting the ball or his chances of winning a fifth green jacket.

"It is simply not the degree of his conduct that is so egregious here," Payne said. "It is the fact that he disappointed all of us, and more importantly, our kids and our grandkids.

"Our hero did not live up to the expectations of the role model we saw for our children."

They were the strongest words from a Masters chairman since Hootie Johnson's famous "point of a bayonet" reply to Martha Burk in the summer of 2002 when he defended the club's right to an all-male membership.

Payne was one of the Augusta National members who stood among the Geor-



Tiger Woods watches a shot during a practice round prior to the 2010 Masters Tournament at Augusta National Golf Club yesterday in Augusta, Ga. Woods will tee off in the second-last group this afternoon with K.J. Choi and Matt Kuchar.

gia pines to the right of the first fairway Monday, the first time Woods played before a gallery since being caught cheating on his wife five months ago.

No other golf official has been so outspoken about Woods's behaviour.

No other major is like the

Even though Woods is a four-time champion and the No. 1 player in the world, he is at Augusta National by invitation, just like the other 95 players who will tee it up today.

Woods already had

played his final practice – nine holes with Mark O'Meara — and left the course when Pavne held his news conference.

The chairman saved his thoughts on Woods for the end of his opening statement.

"Is there a way forward? I hope yes. I think yes," Payne said.
"But certainly, his future will never again be measured only by his performance against par; but

measured by the sincerity

of his efforts to change.

"I hope he now realizes that every kid he passes on the course wants his swing, but would settle for his

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

To read more of remarks about Tiger Woods, scan the code.

Sports in brief

NHL DRAFT It looks like the battle between Tyler Seguin and Taylor Hall will go right down to the wire. Seguin overtook Hall in the final rankings released by NHL Central Scouting yesterday and it's unlikely either will be considered the consensus No. 1 choice heading into the entry draft in June. **LUGE** The secretary general of luge's governing body says an official investigation into the death of Nodar Kumaritashvili at the Vancouver Olympics will find no single cause for his fatal accident. Svein Romstad told the Associated Press vesterday the International Luge Federation report is set to describe the 21-year-old Georgian's crash on Whistler's sliding track as something that could not have been foreseen. **SOCCER** Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney re-

injured his right ankle against Bayern Munich yesterday, a week after being hurt in the first leg. The final four of the Champions League won't feature an English team for the first time since 2003 after Munich ousted Manchester on aggregate, while Lyon reached its first semifinal by eliminating Bordeaux. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Wunderkinds

Young style bloggers are becoming influential forces in the fashion world

Jane Aldridge hoped to get a few readers when she started a style blog at 15. Today that sounds impossibly modest.

Aldridge, now 18, gets about 70,000 hits a day at her blog Sea of Shoes. She's been featured in magazines like Vanity Fair and Teen Vogue and has designed shoes for Urban Outfitters.

"I didn't realize at the time that I started my blog that blogs would ever be-come what they are now," she said.

bloggers like Young Aldridge have become an unexpected powerhouse in the fashion industry, gracing front rows at Fashion Week, teaming with top magazines and working with mainstream clothing brands. Aldridge is among those who have been read by editors and designers for the last couple of years, said Jane Keltner, fashion news director for Teen

"In the last year it's just exploded," Keltner said. Thirteen-year-old Tavi

Gevinson, who writes the blog Style Rookie, has helped Rodarte introduce its line for Target, appeared on the cover of Pop magazine and been spotted at various fashion shows around the world. Her fashion commentary has even appeared in Harper's Bazaar.

American Apparel has featured several young bloggers in ads, including Karla Deras of Karla's Closet. Marc Jacobs named a bag after blogger Bryanboy. Keltner said that brands

are smart to get on board with bloggers who already have a following and are influential in the fashion world. It was a good way for Target to connect with customers, said spokesman Joshua Thomas.

"Obviously Tavi's blog is extremely popular and she's really developed a loyal following," Thomas

Aldridge's retail ventures have included designing a trench coat for Gryphon with her mother Judy, who has her own blog called At-



Jane Aldridge, 18, is a fashion blogger who runs a site called Sea of Shoes. Here she poses at her home in Trophy Club, Texas.

"I didn't realize at the time that I started my blog that blogs would ever become what they are now."

Blogger Jane Aldridge

lantis Home. Gryphon designer Aimee

Cho said she liked how the mother and daughter were able to wear a lot of the same clothes, but in different ways and have fun with fashion.

"I do think clothes should be fun and that's what I like about Jane and Judy," she said. Cho said bloggers, especially teens, offer an unfiltered perspec-

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





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Metro Homes



Bubble mat

These lightweight Bubble Felt Placemats feature a cutout bubble design and come in taupe, dark brown and black. Urban Barn. \$6. urbanbarn.ca.

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Shake up the kitchen



JENNIFER BILL

The first few tastes of spring generally whet the palette for backyard barbecues, cocktails on the deck and late suppers on

warm nights.

Toronto

V Fleischer
takir decorator mandy Fleischer says kitchens are taking the simple route.

"Ŵe've moved into a more transitional look with less fuss," she says. "A lot of kitchens today are about clean lines, maximizing space, and exposing shelving so that you can show off plates, glasses and patterns



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This stylish metal HomeLiving Revolving Spice Rack with 12 assorted spices in labelled pre-filled bottles complements any kitchen counter. Canadian Tire, \$34.99, canadiantire.ca.



The Black & Decker Pantry has framed, frosted, panel doors with European hinges and metal handles in alder laminate finish, with five shelves for storage. Canadian Tire, \$159.99, canadiantire.ca.





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Tippo Printed and Cutout place mats make a table-top statement in modern prints and cutouts. Made from polypropy-

lene, each style comes in white or black lace, white or black floral, white or black cutout damask and light or dark wood veneer. \$10 for set of 8. Urban Barn, urbanbarn.ca.

metro

Cody confirms pregnancy via Twitter

Juno screenwriter Diablo Cody is expecting her first child. The Oscar winner, 31, announced the happy news via Twitter. "Thanks for the congrats on my fetus! No secrets here; just thought it would be fun to see how big I could get before someone noticed." TYGUIDE.COM

Entertainment

Idol guest

Slash reloads with fresh riffs

Former Guns N' Roses guitarist delivers best album since leaving the band

Slash

Album: Slash Label: Universal Rating: @@@½

right out and say it: This is the best album has



been involved with since leaving Guns N' Roses. It's not a brilliant piece of work, but it's a good reminder of why Slash is one of the best guitarists on the planet. He whips off solos left and right — all of which are air guitar worthy — while the songs themselves are, for the most part, gritty, riff-heavy '90s rockers. He was wise to employ friends like Ozzy, Ian Astbury and Lemmy to sing on these tracks, though he should have held back his invite to Maroon 5's Adam Levine.

Bryan Borzykowki/for Metro Canada

Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings

Album: I Learned the Hard Way Label: Daptone Records

IT WOULD BE real easy to write the Dap-Kings off as retro-revivalists. They are,

Album**Reviews**

music@metronews.ca

after all, just a bunch of white guys from New York playing funky mid-



'60s soul on analog equip ment just the way they did in Memphis ... way back before most of the Dap-Kings were even born. Most of the songs are written by a 30-something bass player by the name of Gabriel Roth (a.k.a. Bosco Mann). It would be easy to dismiss the Dap-Kings with a quip like "why don't you go listen to the real thing, put on an old Otis record or something?" Yeah, easy. Except Sharon Jones, the 54-yearold voice at the front of this band, is the real thing. She was born in Iames Brown's hometown of Augusta, Ga., a shade too late to get in on the bottom floor. But she's making up for lost

time And we've got Bosco and the boys thank for

that. Rockingham/ for Metro Canada

Jakob Dylan

Album: Women and Country Label: Columbia/Sony

Bob teams up with T Bone Burnett America's

over



top roots producer his second solo album since leaving the Wallflowers five years ago. On paper it's a perfect match. Certainly the album starts out that way with opening track Nothing But the Whole Wide World. It's upbeat melody disguises a working man's lament of shattered dreams abandoned hope. and That song, however, sounds absolutely joyous compared to what follows as Burponderous drone nett's



Slash's new solo album reminds us why he is considered one of

record like a funeral of Neko Case and Kelly march. These Americana Hogan, but even they are themes are all too familiar Burnett's signature style makes recording them even more so. The

fea-

album

ented

tures the tal-

country

relegated to the back of the mix. By the end of the album, there's a good chance the listener will be either asleep or suicidal. Graham

Rockingham/for

letro Canada







Melissa Auf der Maur

Album: Out of Our Minds abel: MAdM Music Rating: 🕮 🕮

IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS since Melissa Auf der Maur released a solo



playing with Hole and Smashing Pumpkins) so the wait had better be worth it. Well, Out of Our Minds isn't bad, but it's not a masterpiece. It's simple, fun straightforward rock. Follow the

Map is an infectious rocker that would have done well in the 90s, in fact, many of these tunes would work on a mix CD with her old bands' songs. The most interesting part about Out of Our Minds is that it's actually a three-part project, with a film and comic too.

Bryan Borzykowki/for Metro Car



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Sarah Palin's 19-year-old daughter, Bristol, appears in a public service announcement with her son Trigg, speculating about the hardships she'd face as a teenage single mom if she weren't from a famous, supportive family. PEOPLE.COM

New Orleans' HBO close-up

TV show tackles life for locals post-hurricane Katrina

The name David Mills kept coming up in a conversation last week about Treme, HBO's zesty new drama set in post-Katrina New Orleans.

It's no wonder he was on the minds of Treme co-creators David Simon and Eric Overmyer as they talked about the new show.

Only two days earlier, Mills — their longtime comrade, an acclaimed writer and the show's coexecutive producer — died unexpectedly, while filming in New Orleans.

The 10-episode first season has almost wrapped, said Simon, but already he was thinking of seasons that might lie ahead, and already missing Mills.

"There will be things that we do not think of, things that we do not achieve, because he's not there," Simon said. The mood wasn't maudlin or bitter. In some ways, it re-flected the hearty defiance of Treme (a city neighbourpronounced May'), whose wide range of everyday folk are dealing with incalculable losses,



David Simon works on the New Orleans set of his latest project, Treme, a TV pilot set in the city post-Hurricane Katrina.

and won't submit.

It's the latest project from Simon, hailed for HBO's Generation Kill. The Corner and The Wire. But Treme varies from those others with its sense of hope and rich accessibility.

New Orleans culture is participatory," Overmyer said. "You jump into the parade when it comes by. We're hoping the show is the same, that you'll just

jump in and go for the ride now, sort it out later.'

The show begins in fall 2005, three months after Hurricane Katrina and the preventable engineering failure that caused flooding in some 80 per cent of the city, leaving destruc-tion, death and thousands displaced people.

And yet, from the first moments of Treme, the music is playing, a neighbourhood restaurant has reopened and displaced residents are trying to rebuild, despite the institutions that betray them.

Among the panoply of characters are trombonist Antoine Batiste (Wendell Pierce, The Wire), restaurant owner-chef Ianette Desautel (Kim Dickens, Deadwood), and Tulane professor Creighton Burnette (John Goodman), a high-decibel critic of the response to the disaster.

"In some ways, the show begins warmly," Simon said. "But there are moments where these people have to address the reality of living in New Orleans. There's a lot of glorious magic, but there's a lot that's (screwed) up.

"While we can say an awful lot about New Orleans, we must first have a story about people in a situation that is both interesting and says something about the human condition," said Overmyer.

Treme premiers Sunday at 10 p.m. EDT.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MJ portrait for sale: \$3M

ART An over-the-top portrait of Michael Jackson is going up for auction online.

The eBay.com auction of the 50-by-40-inch painting by Australian artist Brett-Strong Livingstone launched last night, said the portrait's owner.

The colourful work, titled The Book, and reportedly the only painting the King of Pop ever posed for, depicts him in a red velvet jacket, clutching a journal at his Neverland Ranch.

"I've had it an awful long time," said toy inventor Marty Abrams, who acquired the painting with partner John Gentilly in 1992 from Japanese businessman Hiromichi Saeki as payment on a debt. "With the positive response to his music and the movie about him after his death, we thought it was a good time

to sell it and for the world to see it."

For over 17 years, Abrams kept the painting in storage in a New Jersey warehouse. It was briefly on display at the Dancy-Power Automotive showroom in Harlem after Jackson's death last June. The fantastical painting, which also features the fairy character Tinkerbell hovering in the back-ground, is now hanging inside Abrams' home in Kings Point, N.Y.

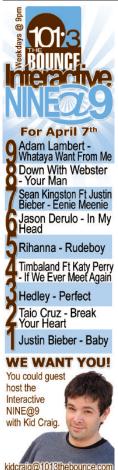
It was originally sold to Saeki for \$2.1 million in 1990. Abrams said the painting was appraised by Belgo Fine Art Appraisal and Restoration at \$5.3 million in 2000, but he believes it is worth more now. Abrams hopes it will fetch over \$3 million in the auction. which is scheduled to end April 17. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment in brief

REALITY SHOWS For the first time, ABC's Dancing With the Star outdrew both editions of Fox's American Ido last week Nearly 23 million people watched Dancing, while 21.8 million people watched Idol

Experts believe the show's popularity is due to Kate Gosselin who is in cast this season. Her cast mate, former astronaut Buzz Aldrin, was voted off the show on Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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critics'corner_

Bones
Co-star David Boreanaz directs "The Parts in the Sum of the Whole," the series' 100th episode, which recounts the first time Booth and Brennan (Boreanaz, Emily Deschanel) worked together on a case. This look back at their beginnings has a profound effect on them and may change their feelings for each other forever. The episode also offers a glimppee at the other Jeffersonian team at the other Jeffersonian team members to see how their relationships began. 9 PM on FOX



The Wachowski brothers of "The Matrix" fame bring a graphic novel to life with the same dazzling technique in this genuinely smart 2006 thriller. Shorn of her hair as the futuristic story unfolds, Natalie Portman acquits herself well in the demanding role of a young innocent drawn into the mindset of a vigilante (Hugo Weaving) who disguises himself as revolutionary Guy Fawkes and targets the British government. 11 PM on TOON

Elizabeth Peirce, author of Grow Organic: A Simple Guide to Nova Scotia Vegetable Gardening (Nimbus) Saturday, 12 to 2 p.m., at Indigo, Sunnyside Mall, Bedford and from 3 to 5 p.m. at Chapters, Mic Mac Mall, Dartmouth. VALERIE MANSOUR/FOR METRO HALIFAX

entertainment 17

Urban Foodie

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points slowly Join slow food chefs Michael Howell and Peter Jackson, and the national leaders of Slow Food Canada, for a four-course dinner at Tempest Restaurant celebrating local food: Friday, April 30, 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. \$75. Information: 902-542-0588 or mail@slowfoodns.ca.

VALERIE MANSOUR/ FOR METRO HALIFAX

In **brief**

BLUEBERRY SUCCESS Nova Scotia's own Van Dyk's by Nature 100% Pure Wild Blueberry Juice has been judged as Best Beverage 2010 by the Canadian Liver Foundation in their 2010 LIVERights Awards. Visit vandykblueberries.ca.

VALERIE MANSOUR/ FOR METRO HALIFAX

In the Elephant's Eye

VALERIE MANSOUR halifaxfoodie@gmail.com

Elephant's Eye Décor and Cafe 1727 Barrington St. 420-1225

Signature Drink: Coffee

What a lovely little café, warmly decorated including one corner with antiques for sale. Lunchtime

is busy and we're warmly greeted by the server. We are brought a delicious slice of toasted olive bread, made on the prem-

My friend orders the Seafood Crepe (\$12). Its texture is light as one would expect, well stuffed with seafood including tiny shrimp and scallops, and mussels on the side. It comes with soup or salad so she chooses the House



Elephant's Eye Gingerbread (\$6)

On the web

• Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/recipes.

Salad, a refreshing mix of lettuce, cucumber, tomato and feta

I have the Smoked Salmon Melt (\$11) on Panini. Oh so decadent, with roast vegetables underneath including delicious asparagus, cooked al dente. On the side is the Vegetarian Soup of the Day which on this day is Sweet Potato and Broccoli including carrot and green onion. It's rich and tasty.

We can't resist trying the Elephant's famous Gingerbread (\$6) with rum sauce and whipped cream—small, but yummy.

The Elephant is a favourite with the downtown lunch crowd and now I know why.

Global Peasant blog online

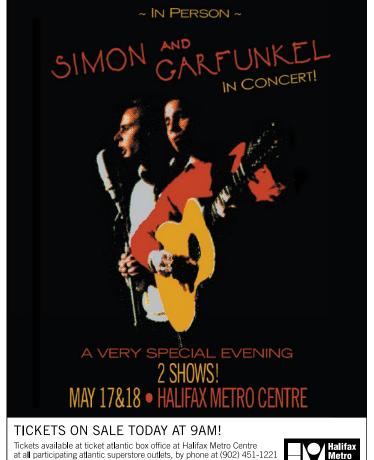
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globalpeasant for a
recipe of Grilled
Asparagus with
Asiago Butter.









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evenko.ca

18 entertainment



Looks like Winona Ryder is launching her own comeback story. The '80s icon has landed a leading role in the Ron Howarddirected film, previously called Cheaters, starring Vince Vaughn and Kevin James, ew.com reports. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Celeb**Tweets**

LAH is feeling refreshed, **DIABLO CODY** doesn't want you to believe the tabloids, and JOHN MAYER is going to stick to the guitar.

@QueenRania Nothing like a family break to kick start Spring! Also a great way to get closer to

the kids. @diablocody

I'm not "secretly married." I married Dan last summer. Took wedding photos in Times Square, which is pretty much the opposite of se-

@iohncmave I'm such a bad DJ, my song transitions could be used as a weapon in war to disorient the enemy.



Bullock, hubby have MJ kid may take no sex tapes: Rep

FOR THE RECORD Sandra Bullock's representatives have moved swiftly to dismiss reports the actress' estranged husband Jesse James has more than a dozen homemade sex tapes allegedly featuring the estranged couple, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress walked out on Iames and left the couple's marital home in March. when allegations first broke that he had been unfaithful with a string of women.

She has yet to comment on the scandal, but online reports suggesting James possesses a graphic sex tape he could possibly use as leverage in a divorce case have prompted her aides to speak

Bullock's rep tells Peo-ple.com, "There is no sex tape. There never has

been one and there never

will be one." come from his "bad judge **James** ment" - is currently in rewho has publicly apologized to his wife and admitted deserves 'every

thing bad" which may

hab receiving treatment for sex addiction but is keen to save their mar-WORLD

stand during trial

FAMILY THAT TESTIFIES TOGETH-ER In their efforts to prove Conrad Murray guilty for the death of Michael Jackson, the late singer's family is reportedly prepping at least one of his children to take the stand in Murray's manslaughter trial, according to Popeater.

The Jackson family wants to do what's best for Michael's

and understand how traumatic it would be for them to take the stand," a source says. "However, they honestly believe that Dr. Mur-

ray is to be blamed for the Michael's death, and they believe that what the children saw the day he died will prove it." METRO WORLD

Rvder returning

Cheating? 'It happens'

NEVER MIND THE INFIDELITY. HERE COMES WHOOPI In an attempt to defend Jesse James, Whoopi Goldberg admitted she herself has been unfaithful when she was married. While dis-

cussing James' alleged infidelity in his marriage to Sandra Bul-lock with her The View co-hosts, Goldberg said, cheated when I was married. I made

misthose takes Yeah, it happens.

She didn't specify during which three marriages

cheating took place. Goldberg also refused to blame Iames for his current predicament, saying infidelity is "nobody's fault."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Love Hewitt ain't that lucky in romance

Newly single Jennifer Love Hewitt admits she hasn't had the best romantic track record, even disclosing to Ryan Seacrest on his radio show that

she's been cheated on sever times 'It's brushe says. "Once I found out on television. and that

another time I found them together."

Coincidentally, Hewitt is also rethinking dating fellow celebrities. don't seek them out,

she says. "I am starting think maybe that's not the way to go. METRO



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Morgan gave up drinking for son

DRUNK DADDY? NOT COOL Tracy Morgan promhimself he'd never drink alcohol again after his shamed son him questions about his DUI

arrest three years ago, femalefirst.co.uk

ports. The Cop Out star had to wear an ankle bracelet that monitored his alcohol intake after he was found guilty of drink driving, and his disappointed son took time to tell his

dad how he felt.

He recalls, "That was rock bottom... My oldest son is looking at me (and he said), 'What are you do-ing? What if I started drinking and driving,

would that be cool?" METRO NEWS

Infection stops Whitney tour

Whitney Houston has been hospi talized in France for and throat after the problems" cancelling opening gig of her European tour earlier in the week because of a respiratory infection, according to Hollyscoop. Houston has also canceled three planned shows in the U.K.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Catwalk kiss too much for Connery?

PECK PEEVE During his fashion event, Dressed to Kilt, Sean Connery was allegedly put off by a man-on-man kiss on the catwalk, sources tell Page Six. When two of the models locked

lips, Connery reportedly "turned to his wife as if to say, 'Oh, my God,'" sources say. METRO WORLD NEWS

Carrey, McCarthy part ways

er. I will continue

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS BE FORE YOU QUIT After five years together and plenty of talk about marriage, Jim Carrey and McCarthy have Ienny it up, they nounced. an-

"I'm SO for grateful years and I shared togeth



daughter's life and will always keep Jim as a leading man in my heart," Mc-Carthy said in a statement.

PIER₂₁

Carrey took to his Twitter account to break the news, posting "Jenny and I have just ended our fiveear relationship. I'm grateful for the many blessings we've shared and I wish her the very

best.

METRO WORLD NEWS





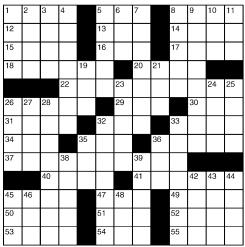






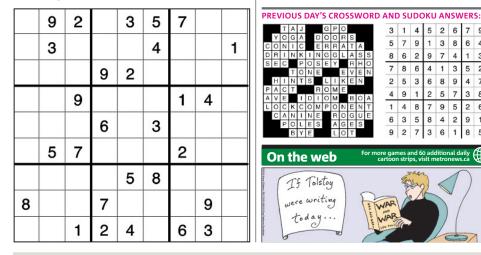
entertainment 19

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Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone - one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



1 Record 5 List-ending abbr. 8 Presage 12 Director Preminger 13 Mai — (cocktail) 14 Mysterious character 15 Blue hue 16 Attila, e.g. 17 Kin of 5-Across 18 Personify 20Supplemented, with "out" 22 Olympians' prizes 26 Eng's closest relative 29 Shaft of light

30 AAA job 31 Entice 32 Gender 33 Antitoxins 34 Einstein's birthplace 35 "Eureka!" 36 Rice field 37 Retreats 40 Achilles

downfall 41 Manually 45 Bedouin

47 Retriever type 49 Met melody 50 Actor LaBeouf

51 Id counterpart 52 Bigfoot's kin 53 Soak up

54 Still -55 Lip

1 Love too much 2 Couple, to a gossipmonger 3 Impale 4 Scent

5 — alcohol 6 Greek cross 7 HBO offshoot

8 Nurture 9 Passe 10 "CSI" evidence

11 Conger, e.g. 19 Follow relentlessly

21 Crucial 23 Fear, and then some

24 Parliamentary title 25 Vacillate

26 Organization 27 Luau entertainment 28 Monday morn-

ing quarterback's place

"Frankenstein" author 33 Walks the catwalk

35 Mimic 36 Thickness 38 Skewered entree

39 Monastery VIP 42 Vicinity 43 Little lice

44 Speaker's spot 45 Fool

preceder 48 Time of your

3 1 4 5 2 6 7 9 8

5 7 9 1 3 8 6 4 2

8 6 2 9 7 4 1 3 5

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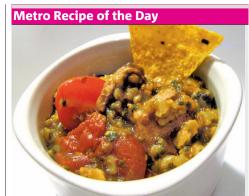
5 2

al daily

8 6 4 1 3

46 Sigma

Take Five



Chili Verde

Submitted by Karen Gold PREP TIME: 20 MINUTES **COOK TIME: 45 MINUTES**

INGREDIENTS:

1 pork tenderloin 1 bunch cilantro

1 large red onion

5 cloves garlic 6 tomatillos

3 large anaheim peppers

4 jalapeño peppers Dash lime juice

½ cup rice 2 1/2 cup chicken broth

1/2 teaspoon cumin seeds 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin

1 teaspoon black pepper 1 can black beans (optional)

METHOD:

1. Slice the pork tenderloin and sauté in a large pot until cooked. 2. Meanwhile, roast the peppers and tomatillos on the top shelf in a 400° oven

3. Pulse the tomatillos in a food processor.

4. Remove the pork tenderloin pieces from the

pot and add the onions garlic and dry ingredients and sauté.

5. Toss the roasted peppers, garlic and cilantro in food processor with the tomatillos, and pulse again.

6. Once the onions are brown, add the meat back in the pot.

7. Add green mixture from food processor to the pot, and add rice and chicken broth. Add black beans if desired.

8. Simmer 45 minutes. If you have more time, slow cook for hours to marry all the flavours.

SERVES 6-8

 Serve this flavourful chili with our Cheddar Farmhouse Biscuits and Guacamole. Find the recipes at 20minutesupperclub.com/



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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

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ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

Let other people make decisions for you today. If they are the right decisions it will save you a lot of time and trouble.

LIBRA SEPT 23-OCT 23

Don't rush into something to-day simply because you fear getting left behind. According to the planets you will gain more in the long-term

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

(g) There are so many things you want to change but circumstances beyond your control are holding you back. Look on the bright side.

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

Someone you live or work with needs a few words of encouragement and you are the one who must give them.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21

If someone is critical of what you are doing today don't react as if it's the end of the world. It isn't, though it may be the end of your friendship.

On the web

If Tolstoy

were writing

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

Forget about your own needs and ask yourself what you could do that would make the people you care for in this world truly happy.

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

You are not the easiest person to get to know and the Sun in Aries at this time of year does not exactly put you in a talkative mood

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20 Your career and your social life are pulling you in different di-rections and at some stage today you will have to choose be-

LEO JULY 23-AUG 23

You've got so many ideas swirling around inside your head but there is not much you can do with them at the mo-ment. File them away

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 18

Is it possible to have too much of a good thing? Maybe, but how do you know until you have tried?

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 22

Don't take chances with money and don't let others take chances for you. Wwhy should you when you are happy with what you have got?

You may not be able to summon up enthusiasm for some-thing you have been told you have to do, but if you treat it as a game it won't be so bad.

This day in history

1908 – Harvard University votes to establish the Harvard Business

1943 – U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in an attempt to check inflation, freezes wages and prices, prohibits workers from changing jobs unless the war effort would be aided thereby, and bars rate increases by common carriers and public utilities.

1974 - Hank Aaron hits his 715th career home run, surpassing Babe Ruth's 39-year-old record. The record-breaking shot is hit off of Al Downing of the Los Angeles Dodgers into the left field bullpen at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium.

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